

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An artificial ski slope for laying on an underlying surface, said artificial surface comprising;

a looped filament carpet; and

a resilient base layer, and said carpet being releasably attached to said base layer.

2. (original) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base layer is adapted to provide drainage of excess fluid from said carpet.

3. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said base layer is attached to the underlying surface using fixing pins.

4. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said looped filament carpet has a construction whereby filaments are woven through a backing sheet to provide loops.

5. (original) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 4, wherein said filaments are made of at least one of polypropylene, PVC or nylon.

6. (original) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 4, wherein said backing sheet is made of an absorbent material.

7. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said carpet is releasably attached to said base layer using a loop and hook arrangement.

8. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~1, wherein said carpet comprises at least two individual tessellating sections, each section comprising a projection along at least one edge, said projection being adapted to be releasably attached to the underside of a tessellating section.

9. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~1, wherein said carpet is provide with a plurality of attachment strips secured to the underside of said carpet.

10. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~1, wherein the loops have a random directional weave pattern.

11. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~1, wherein the looped filaments have at least two different heights.

12. (currently amended) An artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim ~~10~~11, wherein the difference in height between the shortest and longest loops is at least 15% of the height of the shortest loops.

13. (original) A looped filament carpet for use in an artificial ski slope surface, said carpet comprising:

a backing sheet having an upper and lower surface;

filaments woven through said backing sheet to provide a pile which is continuous across the backing sheet; and

releasable attachment means secured to said lower surface.

14. (original) A looped filament carpet as claimed in claim 13, wherein the filaments are made of at least one of polypropylene, PVC or nylon.

15. (original) A looped filament carpet as claimed in claim 13, wherein said backing sheet is made of an absorbent material.

16. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in claim 13~~any of claims 13-15~~, wherein said releasable attachment means is a loop and hook arrangement.

17. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in ~~claims 13-15~~claim 13, wherein said carpet comprises at least two individual tessellating sections, each section comprising a projection along at least one edge, said projection being adapted to be releasably attached to the underside of a tessellating section.

18. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in ~~claims 13-15~~claim 13, wherein said carpet is provided with a plurality of attachment strips secured to the underside of said carpet.

19. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in ~~claims 13-15~~claim 13, wherein the loops have a random directional weave pattern.

20. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in ~~claims 13-15~~claim 13, wherein the looped filaments have at least two different heights.

21. (currently amended) A looped filament carpet as claimed in ~~claims 13-15~~claim 13, wherein the difference in height between the shortest and longest loops is at least 15% of the height of the shortest loops.

22. (original) A method of constructing an artificial ski slope, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a shock absorbent base layer to an underlying surface; and

(b) releasably attaching a looped filament carpet to said base layer.

23. (original) A method of constructing an artificial ski slope as claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of releasably attaching uses a hook and loop mechanism.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of releasably attaching said carpet to said base layer further includes:

separately attaching a plurality of sections of said carpet to said base layer such that each section is also releasably attached to one or more adjacent sections.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein:

said plurality of sections tessellate.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein:

said plurality of sections are provided with a projection along at least one edge; and

said projection is releasably attached to the underside of a tessellating section.

27-35. (canceled)